

## Search Tips for Students

### 1. Making your search more specific

- Search term **site:edu** (Ex: global warming **site:edu**)– will give you websites specifically designed for education
- Search term **site:gov** (Ex: environmental statistics **site:gov**)-this will give you statistics and information from government websites
- Search term **site:k12**-kindergarten through grade 12 educational institutions in the USA
- Search term **site:ac.za**- this will give you websites from specific countries-za is the country code for South Africa-each country has a different code
- Advanced search-can use reading level-basic=5-6 grade reading level, intermediate=middle and high school reading levels

### 2. Evaluating websites-“How accurate is this information?” Things to look for:

- The number of links in and out of a site-more links probably means more accurate information(**link:-**tells all other websites this site links to; **linkto:-**tells all other websites that link to this site)

- How recently was this website updated-more recent is better
- Author of website-5<sup>th</sup> grade student may not be reliable while an college professor probably knows what she's talking about

### 3. On Wikipedia

- Great place to start a search but a terrible place to end a search
- You should go to this at the start of your search then use the websites that are linked to Wikipedia and that Wikipedia links to-this is where you will get more useful information

**Bibliography:** All information in this document is based on a presentation by Jeff Utech at the Spring EARCOS conference 2012

[www.jeffutech.com/googleapps](http://www.jeffutech.com/googleapps)